



Family Alliance for Veterans of America (FAVA)

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Project Description

FAVA's "Passport to Independence", program will ensure Veterans who are chronically homeless and/or disabled receive supportive services and permanent supportive housing to secure and sustain long-term stable, permanent housing in their communities. FAVA will serve participants in Forest City and Mason City. FAVA's program will establish a rural community-wide strategy to address lack of services for homeless veterans and veteran families, a strategic planning component of the Iowa CoC – Balance of State. FAVA is connected to a vast network of community-based partners (including more than 20 housing related) that assist provide and connect veterans and their families to vital services that maximize the ability to obtain and sustain permanent housing and income serving up to 18 veterans annually. FAVA will provide rental assistance to disabled veterans in 4 individual apartments in Mason City. We will also provide leasing assistance in Forest City with 6 additional apartments. There are currently no residents in any of the existing units. At project capacity, the program will provide a total of 10 project beds. Guided by a client-centered and individualized stable housing plan, participants will obtain and remain in permanent housing by receiving a menu of supportive services including a legal assessment of service needs, assistance with moving costs, case management, education services, employment assistance and job training, food, housing search and counseling services, life skills training, outreach services, transportation, utility deposits and assistance, and direct provision of services. Leasing and rental assistance will also both provide in addition a security deposit as needed for veteran's transitional housing to permanent housing. FAVA will use trained Veteran Advocates (case managers) to coordinate, cultivate and educate housing providers, perform outreach and assist veterans to access: benefits, community-based services, healthcare, Section 8 housing vouchers, social security benefits, food stamps, TANF, and community-based health services (fearing stigma, some Veterans avoid treatment in VA facilities).